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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2005

22 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: CI/OA

SUBJECT: Dr. Curt HLEY (C-43081)

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Chief, CI/OA to Chief, RE/Germany  
dated 10 November 1955

1. Above reference defers action on the request for Subject's Provisional Operational Approval pending the receipt of Field traces and more details regarding Subject's future use.

2. Following pertinent Field traces were received subsequent to Reference:

a) FRAN 3676 (IN 18082) quotes ECLA-13524, 12 April 1955. The latter dispatch calls HLEY a ZIPPER source but cannot answer the question whether casual, witting or unwitting.

A HICOG Biographical sketch lists Subject as a member of the German Embassy, "one, in March 1941 and of the German Legation, Copenhagen, in November 1941. He was a member of the German Armed Forces from 1943 to 1945.

The same cable lists HLEY as a leading member of the German section of MSEUE.

A legal contact of the German Station advises that HLEY is a prominent defense attorney in criminal press cases. He practices before the German High Court and is well recommended by his clients.

b) ECLA-16434, dated 1 November 1955. This dispatch repeats information previously reported, that Subject, believed to be a reliable SPY member, was a close friend of Dr. JOHN and became a lawyer through the latter's help. In May 1950 it was reported that Dr. GRIMME negotiated with HLEY concerning GRIMME's (sic) starting to work for RFE. (In the opinion of this Headquarters case officer, this is an incorrect translation of the original German document and should read "HLEY's starting to work for RFE").

c) FRAN 4254 (IN 36040), mentions ECLA-10897 of September 1954. This is a ZIPPER report quoting a ZIPPER source Guenther SYRUP, a former SS Hauptsturmfuehrer, now of Hamburg, that HLEY was a close friend of Dr. Otto JOHN who helped HLEY to become a lawyer.

d) FULL 2440 (IN 29623), comments on paragraph 2 of FRAN 4254 explaining the reference to HLEY in ECLA-10897. In POB's opinion SYRUP prepared a list of JOHN's contacts at ZIPPER's specific request. There was, however, a chance that SYRUP had previously tipped HLEY to ZIPPER as

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potential agent material.

e) EDBA-27336, dated 14 November 1955, transmits a detailed report by the Principal Agent of OTLINS on Subject's background. Since this report is written in German pertinent abstracts are herewith listed (so far as the information had not previously been submitted).

Subject has been married several times; he is presently married to Hilde BLAY, nee HUGERT, who owns a dress shop in Hamburg. The Principal Agent has known Subject since 1940 when BLAY contacted the former through some Quaker friends in Berlin and brought him together with persons in opposition to Hitler. BLAY at that time belonged to a group of conspirators within the German Foreign Service.

After 1945 the P/A renewed his acquaintance with Subject who meanwhile had become assistant editor in chief of the newspaper DIE WELT. BLAY was an SPD member and was on good terms with some SPD leaders including the Bremen mayor KAISER. Since BLAY supported the EDC concept and also wrote pro-Adenauer articles he subsequently antagonized the SPD and, (in 1954?) was urged by the Hamburg SPD leadership to resign from the party. Since that time he has not been a member of any political party.

Subject has an excellent reputation as a lawyer. He is the counsel for the press chief of the CDU faction and for big industrial organizations. He is in good standing with labor unions.

f) EDBA-26643, dated 20 October 1955 contains biographical data. Copy is attached.

g) FULL 2538 (IN 33928) again comments on BLAY's alleged relations to JOHN and on possible ZIPPER connections cited in FRAN 3876 (IN 18082). POB assumes that BLAY's reported friendship with JOHN was merely a part of the JOHN data submitted by STRUP and was without special significance except perhaps in ZIPPER eyes as a mildly derogatory evaluation. POB further believes that BLAY was not tipped to ZIPPER as a potential agent.

h) EDBA-71376, dated 24 November 1955 contains CIC traces. The following pertinent information is abstracted:

Subject was listed as a 20 July 1944 plot associate of JOHN against HITLER. (B-2). In August 1939 BLAY contacted the British Labour Party in an early effort to align opposition against HITLER. BLAY was arrested by the Gestapo in April 1943 and later released. (F-6).

i) FULL 2562 (IN 34461), information copy received by CI/OA. The allegation that Subject was connected with a "Rote Kapelle" veteran can not be further explained and corrected on at present. Since FULL 2562

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obviously refers to POB's previous report RLA-1443 (see paragraph 2 b above) the Headquarters case officer believes that the reported HELIN-ELKY connection is too vague as to allow any valid conclusions.

2. Your request for more details on Subject's future was forwarded to the Field. BOB's answer is contained in RLA-27705, dated 23 November 1955, copy of which is attached.

3. Subject was retained by the P/A of HELIN in early October in order to represent HELIN and its key personnel in pending law suits. Cable traffic since that time indicates the necessity for close case officer control of ELKY in order to avoid mistakes and free wheeling by Subject. The request for a POA was submitted mainly to permit direct case officer contact and thus to safeguard CIA's interests in Subject's legal activities on behalf of HELIN.

4. For reasons stated in paragraph 3 above, request for POA is herewith resubmitted. An early reply would be appreciated.

☐ ☐ Case Officer

☐ ☐ Chief, P/A

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